

Veteran's wish granted

Jill Starbuck to take final trip to Hawaii with loved one thanks to 'Dream'



Jill Starbuck and her partner Richard will take a trip to Hawaii before Starbuck is too weak. She battles pancreatic cancer and is on hospice. The dream was granted by Dream for Veterans, part of the nonprofit Dream Foundation.

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Monday morning, Jill Starbuck, and her partner, Richard, boarded a plane to fulfill a dream. Starbuck, a military veteran, has pancreatic cancer and is on hospice. She wanted to make a last trip to Hawaii before she becomes too weak. Most of all, though, she wanted to share the experience with Richard, who she calls “my rock and my love.” Dream for Veterans, part of nonprofit Dream Foundation, which grants the wishes of terminally ill adults, gave her that opportunity after receiving a heart-felt appeal from Starbuck. “Richard and I have been together for four years, and for half of that time, I have been sick,” Starbuck wrote in her letter to the foundation. “He is my rock. He has supported me and cared for me, and has done that because he loves me.” See DREAM, Page 6A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

City of Dallas receives clean audit report.
»Page 2A

FALLS CITY

Falls City will end its co-op with Kings Valley Charter School.
»Page

INDEPENDENCE

Central's girls basketball team set to host a state play-in game.
»Page 13A

MONMOUTH

Hall inspired to become author.
»Page 5A

EDUCATION

Dallas School Board sets deadline for out-of-district transfer applications.
»Page 14A

SPORTS

Perrydale's boys basketball team advances to the state quarterfinals.
»Page 11A

Newspapers available in digital format

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — The Dallas Public Library has added select years of newspapers that served Dallas dating back to 1868. The newspapers are available online in digital and searchable format, the library announced. The following years are available: 1903-1914 Polk Itemizer, 1903-1914; Polk County Signal, 1868; and The Polk County Times, 1869-70. These newspapers and others can be accessed at: http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu. These newspapers have been scanned and converted to digital format by the University of Oregon Digital Newspaper Program. This means that many of them are keyword searchable. This provides those interested in local history, research, or genealogy a remarkable and convenient resource. This project was made possible by a grant from the Polk County Cultural Coalition. The library will be adding more years of digital material in the future.

NW Natural project on LaCreole continues

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A NW Natural project in progress on LaCreole Drive in Dallas is estimated to continue for another few weeks. The work will improve the utility's service to customers in certain areas of Dallas, according to NW Natural. Drivers in the area may run into minor delays while crews are working. Flaggers have been coordinating traffic around the project. “We are extending a pipeline in that area to better serve customers

on the south side of town,” said Melissa Moore, NW Natural's corporate communications manager. “We hope to be done in the next two weeks or by March 17.” The project required digging up part of the street on LaCreole Drive. A temporary patch will cover the area until June. Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said the company will fully repair the road at that time. “The road repair will require the street to be milled and resurfaced,” he said. “After the resurfacing is done, there should be no evidence of the natural gas project.”



A NW Natural project is estimated to continue for a few weeks.

Cities request recreational immunity

Law protects private, public landowners from being sued by people using property

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Local government agencies and private landowners across the state are asking the state legislature to restore “recreational immunity,” protecting owners who allow recreation on their land or parks from lawsuits. Locally, the cities of Falls City, Dallas and Monmouth have approved a resolution encouraging lawmakers to pass legislation that would restore full immunity. That request follows a 2016 Oregon Supreme Court decision that struck down recreational immunity. Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said the case, Johnson vs. Gibson, involved a sight-impaired jogger in Portland who was running through a park and was injured when stepping in a hole dug by a parks department employee. “Oregon, for a long time, has enjoyed what they call recreational immunity, which is basically to say that if you participate in open space, you do so at your own risk,” Foggin said. That allowed land owners — public and private — to open their property for recreational use without fear of being sued, so long as owners didn't charge for use. The woman's attorney in Johnson vs. Gibson argued that while the city of Portland has recreational immunity, its employee still is liable. The court sided with the woman in a lawsuit, saying that the state's Public Lands Act never intended to protect employees or agents of the land owner. See PARKS, Page 7A

A family enjoys using a playground at Dallas City Park. Falls City, Dallas and Monmouth approved a resolution encouraging lawmakers to restore recreational immunity.



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THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK

wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
“Bocon!” opens tonight at Central High School, a story about a boy's journey to the City of Angels. 7 p.m. \$3-\$8.	Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Libraries and schools across Polk County will host special guests to honor the author.	Cross and Crown will host a dessert appreciation. The evening will include live music, a raffle and silent auction. 6:30 p.m. Free.	It's the first Saturday, and that means donations will be accepted at the Fill Our Home Donation Center on Uglow St. 9 a.m.-Noon. Free.	Pick up some fresh-baked goodies and find some new treasures at Rickreall Grange Flea Market. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.	Mom always said you only get one set of permanent teeth, so share a big smile and celebrate National Dentist's Day.	James2 Community Kitchen volunteers feed all who are hungry at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas. 4:30-6 p.m. Free.
 Showers Hi: 49 Lo: 38	 Rain Hi: 48 Lo: 43	 Rain Hi: 47 Lo: 38	 Rain Hi: 45 Lo: 35	 Rain Hi: 43 Lo: 36	 Rain Hi: 46 Lo: 41	 Showers Hi: 47 Lo: 40